

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery presents five centuries of remarkable art in two distinct exhibitions from the McMaster Museum of Art



Media are invited to an exhibition preview of *Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism* and *A Cultivating Journey: The Herman Levy Legacy* on **Thursday, March 1, 2018, 9:00 am** at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Media attending can RSVP directly to Carine Redmond (carine@carineredmond.com or 778-239-3067).*

February 26, 2018, Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery is thrilled to present two exhibitions drawn from the collection of the McMaster Museum of Art in Hamilton, Ontario, on view from March 3 to May 21, 2018.

“We are thrilled to share these two extraordinary collections from The McMaster Museum of Art,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “These iconic works of art are a true embodiment of European Impressionism and Expressionism.”

Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism

Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism uses the German Expressionist collection from the McMaster Museum of Art to explore the development of Expressionism in art from the early nineteenth century to the present day.

The term Expressionism is invariably associated with the period of art and social activism in Germany between 1905 and 1937, encompassing visual art, literature, philosophy, theatre, film, photography

and architecture. In the context of an expanded view on the subject, Expressionism offers a rich and thought-provoking perspective on the relationships between artists and societies and the ever-changing responses and visual expressions that circulate through shared hopes and aspirations for social awareness and change.

Living, Building, Thinking is comprised of more than ninety works in all mediums, including examples of European art from the sixteenth to early twentieth centuries by William Blake, Paul Gauguin and Edvard Munch. Also highlighted are striking works from the German Expressionist and Weimar period, as well as mid-to-late twentieth century European paintings by artists like Jörg Immendorf, Anselm Kiefer and Sigmar Polke. Canadian contemporary works by artists such as Barbara Astman, Nataalka Husar, Nancy Johnson, Gary Pearson, Leopold Plotek and Tony Scherman demonstrate the lasting legacies of Expressionism.

A Cultivating Journey: The Herman Levy Legacy

Representing one of the most important donations ever made to a university gallery in Canada, *A Cultivating Journey* presents five centuries of magnificent art from the McMaster Museum of Art's Levy Collection and Bequest from Herman Herzog Levy.

This exhibition reflects the remarkable acumen of Levy as a collector and explores new scholarship and perspectives on the objects and the collector himself, demonstrating the continuing impact of one man's passion for art. Works by renowned artists such as Gustave Courbet, Camille Pissarro, Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh reflect Levy's personal taste and interests, which favoured Impressionist and Post- Impressionist landscapes, portraits and still lifes. He followed his donation of artworks with a substantial financial bequest specifically for art purchases, through which 219 acquisitions were made. The Levy Bequest made it possible to expand different aspects of the museum's collection and add historical, modern and contemporary works, including those by a range of French, British, Japanese, German and Netherlandish artists.

Levy's collecting interests were broad as reflected in the group of Hiroshige prints, which are offset against masters such as Durer, van Leyden and drawings by Edgar Degas, Walter Sickert and other modernists.

***Also opening this month at the Vancouver Art Gallery:**

BOMBHEAD (March 3 – June 17, 2018)

Image:

(Left): Camille Pissarro, *Pommiers en Fleur*, 1870, oil on canvas, Gift of Gift of H. Herman Levy, McMaster Museum of Art (Right): Otto Dix, *Portrait of Anna Grünebaum*, 1926 oil, tempera and gesso on wood panel, Levy Bequest Purchase, with the assistance of the Government of Canada through a Department of Canadian Heritage, Cultural Property Export Review Board Purchase Grant, 1993 McMaster Museum of Art, © Estate of Otto Dix/SODRAC (2017)

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IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

MEDIA CONTACT

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About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is paid to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to the arts of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art that the Gallery founded in 2014. The Gallery's programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.